Saskatchewan Hearing Aid Plan

Annual Report
April 1, 1975 to March 31, 1976

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Department of Health
Regina, December, 1976

TO THE HONOURABLE G. PORTEOUS
Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONOUR:

I have the honour to present herewith, for your consideration, the Annual Report on the Saskatchewan Hearing Aid Plan for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1976.

Respectfully submitted

W.A. ROBBINS
Minister of Health

Department of Health
Regina, December, 1976

TO THE HONOURABLE W.A. ROBBINS
Minister of Health

SIR:

I have the honour to forward herewith the Annual Report on the Saskatchewan Hearing Aid Plan for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1976.

Respectfully submitted

M.B. DERRICK
Deputy Minister of Health

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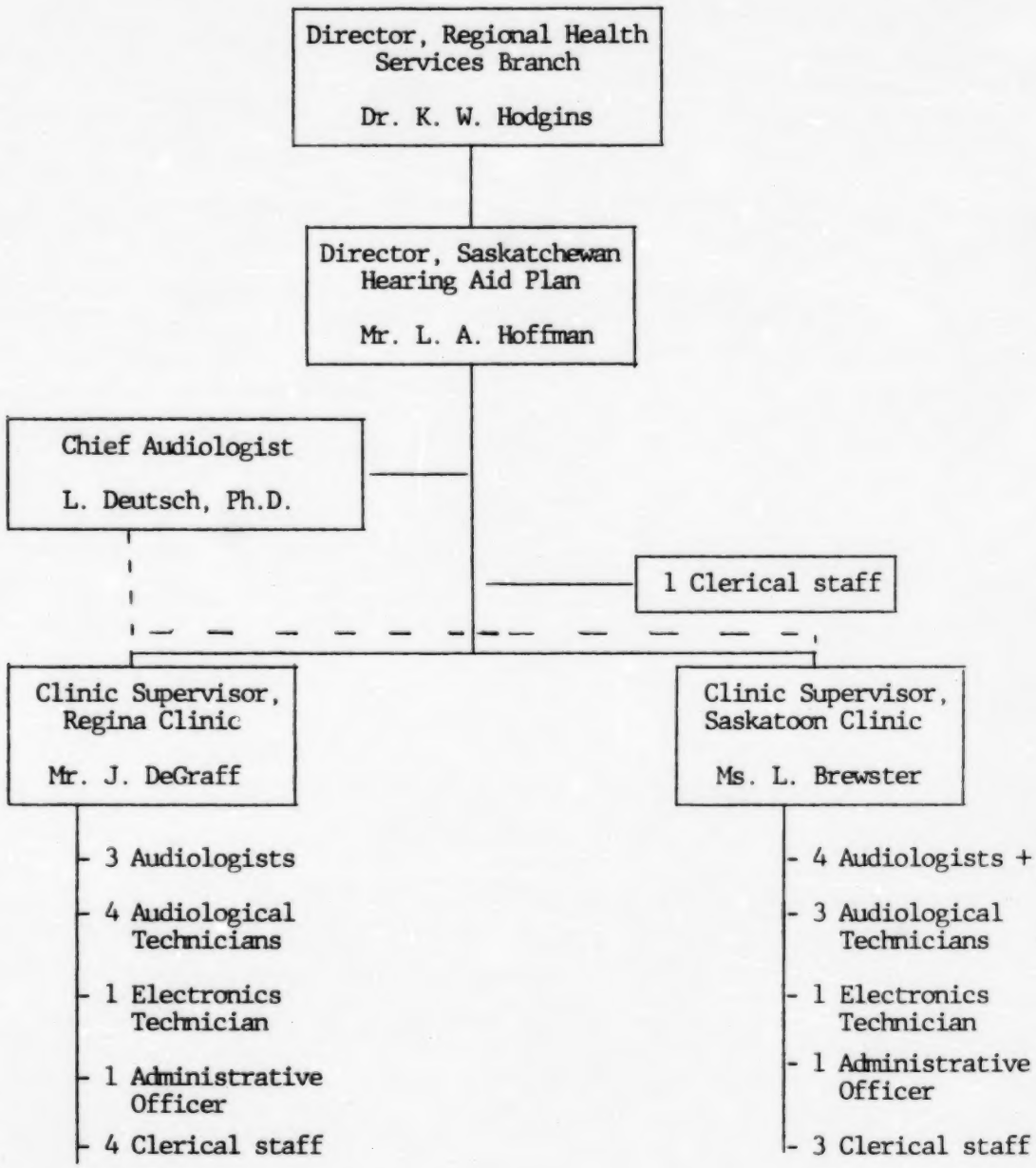
ORGANIZATION OF THE

SASKATCHEWAN HEARING AID PLAN (SHAP)



+ Includes one vacant position

March 31, 1976

H I G H L I G H T S

* There were 4,855 people tested by the Plan. This is an increase of 13 per cent over the previous year.

* The Plan dispensed 2,568 hearing aids to 2,473 beneficiaries. Ninety-five beneficiaries purchased two hearing aids.

* Average cost of a hearing aid to a beneficiary was $94.32 an increase of only two and one-half per cent over the previous year.

* Eighty-six per cent of all aids sold during the year were in the price range $80.00 to $109.00.

* In 1975-76 the average cost of a complete audiological evaluation, hearing aid fitting and follow-up was $128.65 per hearing aid sold through the Plan.

* Average cost for testing beneficiaries not recommended to purchase hearing aids was $42.80. In 1975-76, 2,287 beneficiaires were tested who did not require a hearing aid.

* During the year 2,583 hearing aids were repaired. Of these 1,887 were repaired by SHAP staff at no cost to the beneficiary. The remaining 696 were repaired by the manufacturer or repair depot.

* Over 51 per cent (2,499) of the beneficiaires tested were over 65 years of age. Of these over 63 per cent purchased a hearing aid.

* There were 1,024 beneficiaries under 18 years of age tested by the Plan. Of these 189 required hearing aids.

* On September 15, 1975, Lawrence Deutsch Ph.D. was appointed Chief Audiologist for the Plan.

* As of March 31, 1976 eighty-two pharmacies (mainly in rural areas) are participating in the arrangement of handling hearing aid batteries at reduced cost through the Saskatchewan Hearing Aid Plan.

* During the year, discussions were started with the BPO Elks Purple Cross Deaf Detection and Development Program and their auxilliary The Order of the Royal Purple to supply, in co-operation with SHAP, auditory trainers to hearing impaired preschool children who do not have access to this equipment under existing programs. It is expected this program will be implemented in the coming fiscal year.

ORGANIZATION AND ADMINISTRATION

INTRODUCTION

The Saskatchewan Hearing Aid Plan, inaugurated on August 15, 1973 under THE HEARING AID ACT, 1973 provides high quality hearing aids to the residents of Saskatchewan at greatly reduced costs. The plan also provides a wide range of audiological services and necessary support services. Together with other programs such as those administered by the Saskatchewan Hospital Services Plan, the Saskatchewan Medical Care Insurance Plan, the Cancer Commission, and the Department of Health, it forms part of the provincial health services.

ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

The Saskatchewan Hearing Aid Plan is a program of the Regional Health Services Branch of the Department of Health. The administrative organization for the plan is outlined in the organization chart on page 5.

The plan maintains two base clinics in Regina and Saskatoon and holds periodic but regular clinics in all health regions of the province by the staff of the base clinics.

The clinics provide for complete audiological testing services, hearing aid fitting, counselling in the proper use and care of aids, repair services, and follow-up services. The staff of the clinics also assist in a multi-disciplinary approach to all aspects of the hearing impaired patient. The staff work closely with the beneficiary, family physician, otologists and other persons or agencies to ensure the provision of high quality care of the hearing impaired.

An Advisory Board has been established to review the Plan's policies and procedures and to recommend to the Minister any changes which are desirable.

The Board consists of:	Representative
Director of the Saskatchewan Hearing Aid Plan (Chairman);	Mr. L. A. Hoffman
Two representatives from the Otolaryngology Section of the Saskatchewan Medical Association: one from the northern part and one from the southern part of the province;	Dr. E.V.C. Dwersteg Dr. R. Crook
Two represntatives from the field of Education: one from the Department of Education and one practising teacher of the deaf and hard of hearing;	Miss L. O'Connor Miss J. Dean
One representative from the Saskatchewan Speech & Hearing Association; and	Mrs. K. Pederson
Two consumer representatives appointed by the Minister of Health.	Mrs. M. Slykhuis Mr. W. Bates

Each member is appointed for a two-year term of office and may be reappointed if renominated by the sponsoring Agency or Department. The Chief Audiologist, the two clinic supervisors and a representative from Public Health Nursing also attend all Board meetings as resource people and observers.

PERSONNEL

On March 31, 1976, the approved staff complement of the Plan totalled 30, consisting of one director, one chief audiologist, two clinic supervisors, seven audiologists, seven audiological technicians, two electronic technicians, two administrative officers, and eight clerical staff. At the end of the fiscal year, one aud-

iologist position was vacant (filled September 17, 1976). Effective April 1, 1975, one audiologist and two stock clerk postions were obtained on a permanent basis. During the fiscal year the temporary appointments of two audiologists, two audiological technicians and three clerical staff were continued to accommodate the very high demand for service from the public.

On September 15, 1975, Lawrence Deutsch Ph.D. was appointed Chief Audiologist for the Plan. The names and positions of all senior personnel can be found on page 5.

Appointment of Plan personnel is made through the Public Service Commission and employees are subject to regulations governing the provincial civil service.

FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT

Regina Clinic

The Regina Clinic is located on the ninth floor of the McCallum Hill Building, 1874 Scarth Street. The Clinic has a full range of diagnostic and testing facilities such as sound proof booths, hearing aid fitting rooms, electronics testing area and minor repair facilities.

Three sound booths are equipped with diagnostic audiometers, tape recorders, and other electronic equipment used in providing audiological evaluations for patients of all age groups. One small sound booth is used for basic audiometric testing. The Clinic is also equipped with modern impedance audiometry equipment for evaluating middle ear disorders. The electronics area is completely equipped

for testing hearing aid performance and for equipment calibration. Calibration of audiometric equipment is also provided for other health related professions on an request basis.

During the year minor renovations were completed to overcome the crowded conditions which existed, and to provide more personalized facilities in the hearing aid fitting area.

Saskatoon Clinic

The clinic in Saskatoon is located on the sixth floor of the Investors Building, 402 - 21st Street East. It has a full range of diagnostic and testing facilities including hearing aid fitting rooms, sound proof booths, electronics area and minor repair facilities.

The Clinic has three large sound proof booths equipped with diagnostic audiometers, tape recorders and electronic equipment used in audiological evaluations for patients of all age groups. The clinic is also equipped with modern impedance audiometry equipment for evaluating middle ear disorders. The electronics area is completely equipped for testing hearing aid performance, and for equipment calibration. Calibration of audiometric equipment is also provided for other health related professions on a request basis.

Major renovations were completed in newly acquired space to provide additional testing facilities, office space and hearing aid fitting rooms. This overcame some of the crowded conditions which existed and now assists in providing improved patient services.

PROGRAM AND ACTIVITIES

ELIGIBILITY AND BENEFITS

To be eligible for benefits under the Plan a beneficiary must be a resident of Saskatchewan holding a valid Saskatchewan Health Services Card. Some residents are not required to hold valid Saskatchewan Health Services Cards and still may receive benefits under the plan, for example members of the R.C.M.P. and members of the Armed Forces.

There is no charge to beneficiaries for audiological tests received at the Clinics. Hearing aids recommended by the Plan's audiologists are sold at cost price. All hearing aids sold through the Plan are guaranteed for one year from the date of purchase. This guarantee covers any repairs due to defects in manufacturing. In addition a beneficiary can obtain a refund, for any reason, on a hearing aid purchased through the Plan provided it is returned within 60 days from the date of purchase. The Plan offers a credit plan for any one purchase in excess of $30.

The Plan also provides minor repair services free of charge and major repair service at cost. This service is available to all beneficiaries regardless of where they purchased their hearing aid. Free "loaner" aids are available while aids are being repaired.

Accessories such as cords, receivers and earmolds are sold at cost. The Plan also supplies hearing aid batteries to users at prices much lower than the Canadian Average. Prior to February 1, 1975, these were available at cost price, but only through the Saskatchewan Hearing Aid Plan Clinics. As a result of numerous

requests from hearing aid users to have batteries made available locally, the plan made arrangements with some pharmacies to handle hearing aid batteries at considerably reduced prices.

Under this arrangement, pharmacies can buy hearing aid batteries through the Plan at cost and sell them to users at prices agreed by the Plan. Users purchasing batteries through the Clinics are charged the same price as those charged by participating pharmacies.

On March 31, 1976, eighty-two pharmacies (mainly in rural areas) are now participating in this arrangement of handling hearing aid batteries.

During this fiscal year, preliminary discussions were started with the B.P.O. Elks Purple Cross Deaf Detection and Development Program and their auxilliary The Order of the Royal Purple to supply, in co-operation with SHAP, auditory trainers to hearing impaired pre-school children who do not have access to this equipment under existing programs.

Auditory trainers are specialized systems of amplification that allow wireless communication, by means of radio frequencies, between the parent and the hard of hearing child over a much wider range than available with conventional hearing aids.

NATURE AND SCOPE OF SERVICES

The program offered by the Plan incorporates early detection, audiological evaluations, selection and fitting of hearing aids and follow-up of beneficiaries with a hearing impairment. The Plan co-operates with other agencies in providing services to the hearing impaired.

A beneficiary to the Plan may be self referred or referred by a general practitioner, an otologist, a public health nurse or other agencies. Each beneficiary under-goes a thorough audiological evaluation consisting of pure tone testing, speech audiometry, impedance testing and other special testing, as required, by qualified audiologists. All cases with medical problems are referred to the family physician or to an otologist. Beneficiaries under eighteen years require medical approval before being fitted with a hearing aid.

On the basis of the audiological evaluation a hearing aid evaluation may be recommended in order to select the most suitable aid. Beneficiaries also receive extensive counselling in the use of their aids.

It is important to assure that beneficiaries obtain maximum benefit from their aids. Experience elsewhere has shown that many aids dispensed either are not worn at all or are in appropriately worn. Because of this observation, regular follow-up procedures have been established for all beneficiaries. For other beneficiaries, those with marginal hearing loss or those requiring further counselling are requested to return to the clinics at regular intervals, or as necessary.

During the year the Plan had available from eleven different manufacturers 52 different types of hearing aids, covering a wide range of features. However, 17 models constituted 75 per cent of sales by volume. The Plan has available an extensive variety of hearing aids to provide the most appropriate hearing aid for the various types of hearing loss, and to satisfy individual consumer preference.

Hearing aids are obtained from companies, both Canadian and foreign. These companies are invited to tender according to specifications developed by the Plan.

Each aid has to be accompanied by a performance data sheet from the manufacturer. Spot checks by the Plan's electronics technicians on performance of a sample of each consignment are conducted to ensure maintenance of quality. In addition, each aid is tested for performance when it is dispensed.

COST OF PLAN'S SERVICES

As shown in Table I (page 19) the cost of services provided by the Plan for the fiscal year 1975-76 was $467,822. This compares with $329,056 for the fiscal year 1974-75. Salaries accounted for a major portion of the cost increase.

During the fiscal year 1975-76, 2,568 hearing aids were sold to 2,473 beneficiaries (95 aids were purchased by beneficiaries needing additional hearing aids) through the Plan. Payments received (including credit purchases) from beneficiaries for hearing aids sold, totalled $242,219 at an average price of $94.32 per aid sold (Table II page 20). The Plan also realized $66,378 from the sale of batteries, $18,610 from the sale of ear molds and $30,761 for repairs and other services.

The Plan provides accessories and hearing aid repairs at or near cost and provides follow-up procedures. Only 50.9 per cent of beneficiaries were recommended to buy hearing aids. Audiological evaluation and hearing aid fitting of these beneficiaries accounted for 78.1 per cent of the total expenditure. In 1975-76, this

amounted to $349,144 or $128.65 per hearing aid sold through the Plan (Table II page 20). This compares with 56.3 per cent of the beneficiaries accounting for 81 per cent of the total expenditure in 1974-75 (see Table II page 20 for details). This fiscal year the computation of cost per hearing aid sold was modified to reflect more accurately the cost associated with audiological evaluation and hearing aid fitting. For comparison purposes corresponding data for 1974-75 is presented using the modified computation. Thus the net cost of dispensing a hearing aid through the Plan for 1975-76 was $222.97 ($94.32 for the hearing aid and $128.65 for evaluation and fitting).

The remaining overhead cost of the Plan was attributed to evaluating 49.1 per cent (2,287 out of 4,855) of the beneficiaries who did not need a hearing aid. In 1975-76, this amounted to $42.80 per beneficiary. This compares with $33.00 per beneficiary in 1974-75.

1975-76 PROGRAM STATISTICAL DATA

During the fiscal year 1975-76, 4,855 beneficiaries received complete audiological testing through the Saskatchewan Hearing Aid Plan. This figure does not include 97 beneficiaries whose evaluations were not completed within the fiscal year under report nor those beneficiaries receiving further counselling, repair services and accessories.

Over half of the total beneficiaries receiving audiological tests were over 65 years of age, a fact reflected in almost all

regional clinics (Table III page 22). Over 20 per cent of the beneficiaries were under 18 years of age. The two base clinics accounted for 60 per cent of all beneficiaries tested.

In 1975-76, 2,473 beneficiaries (50.9 per cent of total) were fitted with 2,568 hearing aids. This includes 95 beneficiaries who were fitted with two hearing aids. About two-thirds of the hearing aids were sold to beneficiaries over 65 years of age. Beneficiaries under 18 years of age accounted for only 7.6 per cent of all beneficiaries purchasing hearing aids (Table IV page 23). Over 60 per cent of beneficiaries purchased hearing aids at the two base clinics.

The number of hearing aids sold by age of beneficiary and type of hearing aid is given in Table V (page 24). Behind the ear type of aids constituted 81.5 per cent of all aids sold by the Plan. Eye glass type aids come second with 11.4 per cent of all aids sold. Behind the ear type aids were the most commonly used aids by all age groups.

Hearing aids in the price range of $100. to $109. constituted 31.9 per cent of all aids sold in 1975-76 (Table VI page 25). Over four fifths of hearing aids sold were in the price range $80. to $109.

The two main sources of referral of beneficiaries to the plan were the individual himself and otologists. Almost three fifths of beneficiaries referred by these two sources needed hearing aids while fewer beneficiaries referred by other sources such as general practitioners and public health nurses needed aids. Additional data on sources of referral are given in Table VII (page 26).

About 60 per cent of beneficiaries (2,886 out of 4,885 tested had sensory hearing losses in both ears. Over 8 per cent of beneficiaries had mixed hearing losses in both ears (Table VIII page 27).

Profound hearing loss at least in one ear was observed in 552 beneficiaries and 288 of these needed hearing aids. Of these 186 had profound hearing loss in both ears. Additional data regarding degree of loss are given in Table IX (page 28).

Other statistical data regarding type of hearing loss and degree of loss are given in Tables X to XV (pages 29 to 34).

A total of 145 beneficiaries (5.5 per cent of those purchasing aids) returned their hearing aids to the Plan for refund due to various reasons, including the inability to adjust satisfactorily and inconvenience of wearing an aid.

During the fiscal year 1975-76, 1,283 hearing aids were loaned and over 2,500 hearing aids were serviced by the Plan, which included hearing aids acquired prior to the Plan's inception.

STATISTICAL

TABLES

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TABLE I. STATEMENT OF EXPENSES AND RECONCILIATION TO PUBLIC ACCOUNTS OF THE SASKATCHEWAN HEARING AID PLAN FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 1976

ITEM	1975-76	1974-75
Contractual services	$ 7,894	$ 11,805
Depreciation	48,014	19,519
Freight and express	7,163	2,882
Medical, optical, and allied services	326	834
Medical supplies		654
Miscellaneous materials and supplies	11	1,754
Postage and communication	8,950	7,488
Professional and technical services	6,967	738
Publicity, information, advertising and printing	1,892	2,316
Rents, insurance and utility services	1,116	1,309
Repairs and maintenance	4,444	1,573
Salaries	336,691	235,939
Scientific and educational supplies	4,067	1,816
Stationery and office supplies	7,820	9,436
Sundry		267
Taxes and Licences		987
Travel, sustenance, and vehicle expenses	32,467	29,739
Total	$467,822	$329,056

RECONCILIATION TO PUBLIC ACCOUNTS		
Expenses - Purchases	$295,066	$322,264
Expenses per revenue and expenditure statement	467,822	329,056
Purchase of fixed assets	122,634	65,096
	$885,522	$716,416
Less depreciation expense	48,014	19,519
	$837,508	$696,897
Less increase in account payable	15,068	205
Total Expenditures	$822,440*	$697,102

* Corresponding figure in Public Accounts and Department of Health Annual Report is $822,462. The difference of $22 was incorrectly charged to the SHAP appropriation and was discovered subsequent to the publication of the above reports.

Taken from the 1975-76 financial statements prepared by Clarkson Gordon and Company for the Saskatchewan Hearing Aid Plan. The statements are prepared on an accrual basis which takes into consideration accounts receivable, accounts payable and depreciation.

TABLE II. COST PER HEARING AID SOLD BY THE SASKATCHEWAN HEARING AID PLAN FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 1976

	1975-76 Total Costs	1975-76 Per Hearing Aid Sold *	1974-75 Total Costs	1974-75 Per Hearing Aid Sold +
Hearing aid sales (charges to beneficiaries)	$242,219	94.32	$228,287	91.94
Overhead expenses related to sale of hearing aids:				
Expenses of the Saskatchewan Hearing Aid Plan (Table I)	$467,822		$329,056	
Add: Rents paid by the Department of Government Services on behalf of the Plan	28,897		26,085	
Total overhead expenses	$496,719		$355,141	
Less: Overhead expenses attributed to accessory sales and repair services (10% of total overhead expenses)	49,672		35,514	
Total overhead expenses attributed to audiological, evaluation, hearing aid fitting and followups	$447,047		$319,627	
Less: Overhead expenses attributed to audiological evaluation and follow-ups not related to sale of hearing aids (21.9 of $447,047)**	97,903		60,729++	
Total overhead expenses attributed to sale of hearing aids (78.1 of 447,047)***	$349,144	$128.65	$258,897+++	99.23
Total expenses attributed to sale of hearing aids	$591,363	$222.97	$487,184	$191.17

DETAILS OF COST PER HEARING AID SOLD BY THE SASKATCHEWAN HEARING AID PLAN FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 31, 1976

In order to more accurately reflect the cost of dispensing hearing aids and the cost of providing service for the beneficiaries not receiving a hearing aid, the Plan has modified its method of calculating costs in 1975-76 by using a time factor to provide each type of service, details of which are indicated below:

* 2,568 hearing aids were sold (net) in 1975-76
An audiological evaluation normally takes one hour. A complete hearing aid fitting, audiological evaluation and follow-up takes about three hours.

** 2,287 patients (audiological evaluation only) x 1 hour = 2,287 time units or 21.9% of total time (2,287 + 8,142). Average cost for testing beneficiaries not recommended to buy hearing aids was $42.80 ($97,903 for 2,287 beneficiaries).

*** 2,568 hearing aids dispensed (includes evaluation, fitting and follow-up) + 146 hearing aids returned by patient after dispensing service = 2,714 x 3 hours - 8,142 or 78.1 of total time (2,287 + 8,142)

1974-75

For comparative purposes only, the 1974-75 costs have been adjusted to reflect the revised costing method described above. The details as follows:

\+ 2,483 hearing aids were sold (net) in 1974-75
An audiological evaluation normally takes one hour. A complete hearing aid fitting, audiological evaluation and follow-up takes about three hours.

++ 1,840 patients (audiological evaluation only) x 1 hour = 1,840 time units or 19% of total time (1,840 + 7,827). Average cost for testing beneficiaries not recommended to buy hearing aids was 33.00 ($60,729 for 2,840 beneficiaries).

+++ 2,483 hearing aids dispensed (includes evaluation, fitting and follow-up) + 126 hearing aids returned by patient after dispensing service = 2,609 x 3 hours = 7,827 or 81% of total time (1,840 + 7,827).

TABLE III. NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES TESTED BY CLINIC AND AGE OF BENEFICIARY, SASKATCHEWAN HEARING AID PLAN, 1975-76

Clinic	Age of beneficiary					
	Total	Under 6	6 - 18	19 - 44	45 - 64	65+
Total	4,855 (100.0)*	430 (8.8)	594 (12.2)	362 (7.4)	970 (19.9)	2,499 (51.5)
Regina	1,699 (100.0)	260 (15.3)	246 (14.5)	166 (9.8)	355 (19.7)	692 (40.7)
Swift Current	216 (100.0)	4 (1.9)	11 (5.1)	5 (2.3)	47 (21.8)	149 (69.0)
Moose Jaw	387 (100.0)	27 (7.0)	36 (9.3)	19 (4.9)	71 (18.3)	234 (60.5)
Weyburn	241 (100.0)	3 (1.2)	9 (3.7)	16 (6.6)	49 (20.3)	164 (68.0)
Yorkton	328 (100.0)	24 (7.3)	59 (18.0)	17 (5.2)	49 (14.9)	179 (54.6)
Saskatoon	1,238 (100.0)	91 (7.4)	157 (12.7)	96 (7.8)	258 (20.8)	636 (51.4)
Rosetown	124 (100.0)	2 (1.6)	9 (7.3)	4 (3.2)	32 (25.8)	77 (62.1)
Melfort	159 (100.0)	7 (4.4)	10 (6.3)	9 (5.7)	34 (21.4)	99 (62.3)
Prince Albert	180 (100.0)	2 (1.1)	13 (7.2)	7 (3.9)	33 (18.3)	125 (69.4)
North Battleford	216 (100.0)	8 (3.7)	12 (5.6)	13 (6.0)	49 (22.7)	134 (62.0)
La Ronge DNS	67 (100.0)	2 (3.0)	32 (47.8)	10 (14.9)	13 (19.4)	10 (14.9)

* Figures in parentheses denote % of beneficiaries out of total for each clinic

TABLE IV. NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES PURCHASING HEARING AIDS BY CLINIC AND AGE OF BENEFICIARY, SASKATCHEWAN HEARING AID PLAN, 1975-76

Clinic	Age of beneficiary					
	Total	Under 6	6 - 18	19 - 44	45 - 64	65+
Total	2,473 (50.9)*	43 (10.0)	146 (24.5)	162 (44.7)	539 (55.5)	1,583 (63.3)
Regina	795 (46.7)	21 (8.0)	56 (22.7)	61 (36.7)	193 (54.3)	464 (67.0)
Swift Current	139 (64.3)	1 (25)	2 (18)	4 (80)	26 (55.3)	106 (71.1)
Moose Jaw	205 (66.7)	1 (3.7)	6 (16.6)	7 (36.8)	41 (57.7)	150 (64.1)
Weyburn	143 (59.3)	1 (33)	1 (11)	9 (56.2)	32 (65.3)	100 (60.9)
Yorkton	144 (43.9)	1 (4.1)	3 (5.1)	5 (29.4)	23 (46.9)	112 (62.5)
Saskatoon	701 (56.6)	18 (19.7)	67 (42.6)	59 (61.4)	148 (57.3)	409 (64.3)
Rosetown	43 (34.6)	0 (0)	1 (11.1)	4 (100)	9 (28.1)	29 (37.6)
Melfort	80 (50.3)	0 (0)	5 (50)	3 (33.3)	15 (44.1)	57 (57.5)
Prince Albert	92 (51.1)	0 (0)	0 (0)	2 (28.5)	20 (60)	70 (56)
North Battleford	126 (58.3)	0 (0)	2 (16.6)	7 (53.8)	32 (65.3)	85 (63.4)
La Ronge, DNS	5 (7.4)	0 (0)	3 (9.3)	1 (10)	0 (0)	1 (10)

* Figures in parentheses denote % of beneficiaries tested who bought hearing aids, within each cell, referring back to Table III.

TABLE V. NUMBER OF HEARING AIDS SOLD BY AGE OF BENEFICIARY AND TYPE OF HEARING AID, SASKATCHEWAN HEARING AID PLAN, 1975-76

	Age of beneficiary					
	Total	Under 6	6 - 18	19 - 44	45 - 64	65+
Total	2,568*(100.0)≠	53 (2.0)	175 (6.8)	172 (6.7)	560 (21.8)	1,608 (62.6)
Behind the ear	2,095 (81.5)	35 (1.3)	154 (6.0)	140 (5.4)	476 (18.5)	1,290 (50.2)
In the ear	1 (**)	0	0	0	1 (**)	0
Eye glass	295 (11.4)	0	4 (0.1)	13 (5.0)	73 (2.8)	205 (7.9)
On the body	177 (6.8)	18 (0.7)	17 (0.6)	19 (0.7)	10 (0.3)	113 (4.4)

* Two hearing aids were sold to 95 beneficiaries
** Less than .05
≠ Figures in parentheses denote percentages of total hearing aids sold

TABLE VI. NUMBER OF HEARING AIDS SOLD BY PRICE OF AID, SASKATCHEWAN HEARING AID PLAN, 1975-76

Price range	Number of hearing aids sold	Percentage	Cumulative percentage
Total	2,568	100	
Under $40	18	0.7	0.7
$40 - 49	20	0.8	1.5
50 - 59	--	0.0	1.5
60 - 69	12	0.5	2.0
70 - 79	109	4.2	6.2
80 - 89	706	27.5	33.7
90 - 99	683	26.6	60.3
100 - 109	818	31.9	92.2
110 - 119	52	2.0	94.2
120 - 129	94	3.6	97.8
130 and over	56	2.2	100.0

TABLE VII. NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES TESTED BY TYPE OF REFERRAL, SASKATCHEWAN HEARING AID PLAN, 1975-76

Type of referral	Number of beneficiaries	Number of beneficiaries purchasing a hearing aid	Percent of beneficiaries purchasing a hearing aid
Total	4,855 (100)*	2,473	50.9
Self	2,512 (58.0)	1,458	58.0
General Practitioner	352 (46.9)	165	46.9
Otologist	772 (60.0)	463	60.0
Other medical specialist	57 (21.1)	12	21.1
Public health nurses	302 (19.9)	60	19.9
Other	860 (36.7)	315	36.7

* Figures in parentheses denote percentages of beneficiaries tested by type of referral.

TABLE VIII. NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES TESTED BY TYPE OF HEARING LOSS*, SASKATCHEWAN HEARING AID PLAN, 1975-76

Type of loss (left ear)	Type of loss (right ear)						
	Total	Normal	Conductive	Sensory	Neural	Mixed	Not available
Total	4,855 (50.9)*	510 (2.5)	197 (20.3)	3,094 (58.9)	11 (63.6)	543 (52.9)	500 (60.6)
Normal	489 (1.4)	414 (0.2)	19 (5.3)	34 (8.8)	1 (100.0)	17 (5.9)	4 (0.0)
Conductive	205 (17.1)	30 (3.3)	165 (18.2)	9 (44.4)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (0.0)
Sensory	3,099 (58.8)	50 (120.0)	11 (72.7)	2,886 (59.4)	0 (0.0)	135 (60.0)	17 (58.8)
Neural	13 (61.5)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	3 (100.0)	8 (50.0)	0	2 (50.0)
Mixed	566 (54.1)	14 (7.1)	2 (50.0)	156 (61.5)	2 (100.0)	388 (52.6)	4 (50.0)
Not avail	483 (60.7)	2 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	6 (50.0)	0 (0.0)	3 (33.3)	472 (61.4)

* Figures in parentheses denote percentages of subjects who bought hearing aids.
Conductive - Usually assoicated with outer or middle ear pathologies. The origin of conductive losses can be either congenital or acquired.
Sensory - Usually associated with pathologies of the cochlea which is located in the Inner Ear. The origin of sensory losses are many, some of the more common are presbycusis (hearing loss due to aging), hereditary, noise enduced and congential problems.
Neural - These types of losses are usually associated with damage to the nerve fibres of the hearing mechanism, whether in the Inner Ear or in the neural pathway to the brain stem.
Mixed - A combination of conductive and sensory hearing losses.
Note: The latest terminology calls all Inner Ear hearing losses are sensorineural, and neural hearing losses as retrocochlear hearing losses.

TABLE IX. NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES TESTED BY DEGREE OF LOSS, SASKATCHEWAN HEARING AID PLAN, 1975-76

Degree of loss (left ear)	Degree of loss (right ear)						
	Total	Normal hearing (under 25dB)	Mild loss (26-45dB)	Moderate loss (46-65dB)	Severe loss (66-85dB)	Profound loss (85 + dB)	Not available
Total	4,855 (50.9)*	799 (13.1)	1,357 (57.7)	1,335 (64.1)	451 (58.3)	357 (49.3)	556 (52.2)
Normal hearing (under 25dB)	794 (16.0)	591 (9.3)	121 (33.9)	37 (32.4)	22 (54.5)	20 (30.0)	3 (33.3)
Mild loss (26-45dB)	1,391 (58.2)	88 (25.0)	914 (58.3)	291 (67.0)	55 (61.8)	39 (59.0)	4 (50.0)
Moderate loss (46-65dB)	1,300 (61.9)	56 (14.3)	229 (64.6)	826 (64.8)	132 (65.9)	47 (51.1)	10 (30.0)
Severe loss (66-85dB)	442 (57.0)	23 (26.1)	46 (63.0)	113 (61.9)	193 (54.4)	65 (63.1)	2 (50.0)
Profound loss (85 + dB)	381 (50.9)	37 (37.8)	44 (68.2)	64 (65.6)	47 (53.2)	186 (44.1)	3 (33.3)
Not available	547 (52.3)	4 (0.0)	3 (66.6)	4 (50.0)	2 (0.0)	0	534 (52.8)

* Figures in parentheses denote percentages of beneficiaries purchasing a hearing aid

TABLE X. TYPE OF HEARING LOSS BY DEGREE OF LOSS, RIGHT EAR, SASKATCHEWAN HEARING AID PLAN, 1975-76

Type of loss (right ear)	Degree of loss						
	Total	0-25 dB	26-45 dB	46-65 dB	66-85 dB	85+ dB	Not Available
Total	4,855 (2,473)*	794 (127)	1,391 (809)	1,300 (805)	442 (252)	381 (194)	547 (286)
Normal	489 (7)	403 (7)	10 (0)	1 (0)	1 (0)	0 (0)	74 (0)
Conductive	205 (35)	63 (0)	73 (13)	42 (13)	11 (6)	6 (3)	10 (0)
Sensory	3,099 (1,823)	298 (110)	1,173 (730)	1,046 (679)	268 (152)	249 (119)	65 (33)
Neural	13 (8)	1 (1)	3 (2)	2 (2)	2 (1)	4 (2)	1 (0)
Mixed	566 (306)	16 (5)	96 (46)	176 (95)	149 (87)	114 (67)	15 (6)
Not available	483 (294)	13 (4)	36 (18)	33 (16)	11 (6)	8 (3)	382 (247)

* Figures in parentheses denote number of people who bought hearing aids within each category.

TABLE XI. TYPE OF HEARING LOSS BY DEGREE OF LOSS, LEFT EAR, SASKATCHEWAN HEARING AID PLAN, 1975-76

Type of loss (left ear)	Degree of loss						
	Total	0-25 dB	26-45 dB	46-65 dB	66-85 dB	85+ dB	Not Available
Total	4,855 (2,473)*	799 (105)	1,357 (783)	1,335 (856)	451 (263)	357 (176)	556 (290)
Normal	510 (13)	429 (13)	9 (0)	0 (0)	1 (0)	0 (0)	71 (0)
Conductive	197 (40)	71 (0)	66 (12)	34 (20)	9 (4)	5 (4)	12 (0)
Sensory	3,094 (1,823)	271 (84)	1,156 (711)	1,085 (722)	268 (155)	238 (114)	76 (37)
Neural	11 (7)	1 (1)	4 (4)	3 (2)	2 (0)	1 (0)	0 (0)
Mixed	543 (287)	11 (2)	85 (38)	175 (90)	160 (99)	97 (51)	15 (7)
Not available	500 (303)	16 (5)	37 (18)	38 (22)	11 (5)	16 (7)	382 (246)

* Figures in parentheses denote number of people who bought hearing aids within each category.

TABLE XII. TYPE OF HEARING LOSS BY AGE GROUP, RIGHT EAR, SASKATCHEWAN HEARING AID PLAN, 1975-76

Age Group (right ear)	Type of loss						
	Total	Normal	Conductive	Sensory	Neural	Mixed	Not Available
Total	4,855 (2,473)*	489 (7)	205 (35)	3,099 (1,823)	13 (8)	566 (306)	483 (294)
Under 6	430 (43)	181 (0)	64 (2)	89 (26)	1 (0)	22 (6)	73 (9)
6-18	594 (146)	156 (0)	79 (9)	255 (98)	0 (0)	38 (10)	66 (29)
19-44	362 (162)	71 (1)	26 (9)	182 (108)	1 (1)	46 (19)	36 (24)
45-64	970 (539)	59 (4)	24 (12)	635 (361)	4 (3)	159 (94)	89 (65)
65+	2,499 (1,583)	22 (2)	12 (3)	1,938 (1,230)	7 (4)	301 (177)	219 (167)

* Figures in parentheses denote number of people who bought hearing aids within each category.

TABLE XIII. TYPE OF HEARING LOSS BY AGE GROUP, LEFT EAR, SASKATCHEWAN HEARING AID PLAN, 1975-76

Age Group (left ear)	Type of loss						
	Total	Normal	Conductive	Sensory	Neural	Mixed	Not Available
Total	4,855 (2,473)*	510 (13)	197 (40)	3,094 (1,823)	11 (7)	543 (287)	500 (303)
Under 6	430 (43)	180 (0)	61 (2)	94 (28)	1 (0)	21 (4)	73 (9)
6-18	594 (146)	171 (3)	71 (9)	251 (94)	0 (0)	33 (10)	68 (30)
19-44	362 (162)	66 (3)	29 (11)	184 (107)	1 (1)	46 (16)	36 (24)
45-64	970 (539)	69 (7)	24 (14)	626 (361)	1 (0)	157 (91)	93 (66)
65+	2,499 (1,583)	24 (0)	12 (4)	1,939 (1,233)	8 (6)	286 (166)	230 (174)

* Figures in parentheses denote people who bought hearing aids within each category.

TABLE XIV. DEGREE OF HEARING LOSS BY AGE GROUP, RIGHT EAR, SASKATCHEWAN HEARING AID PLAN, 1975-76

Age Group (right ear)	Degree of loss						
	Total	0-25 dB	26-45 dB	46-65 dB	66-85 dB	85+ dB	Not Available
Total	4,855 (2,473)	794 (127)	1,391 (809)	1,300 (805)	442 (252)	381 (194)	547 (286)
Under 6	430 (43)	174 (0)	50 (9)	37 (9)	17 (3)	37 (11)	115 (11)
6-18	594 (146)	187 (4)	114 (36)	74 (28)	44 (17)	87 (33)	88 (28)
19-44	362 (162)	87 (12)	86 (42)	78 (46)	31 (19)	37 (18)	43 (25)
45-64	970 (539)	195 (50)	300 (192)	233 (132)	85 (57)	68 (41)	89 (67)
65+	2,499 (1,583)	151 (61)	841 (530)	878 (590)	265 (156)	152 (91)	212 (155)

TABLE XV. DEGREE OF HEARING LOSS BY AGE GROUP, LEFT EAR, SASKATCHEWAN HEARING AID PLAN, 1975-76

Age Group (left ear)	Degree of loss						
	Total	0-25 dB	26-45 dB	46-65 dB	66-85 dB	85+ dB	Not Available
Total	4,855 (2,473)*	799 (105)	1,357 (783)	1,335 (856)	451 (263)	357 (176)	556 (290)
Under 6	430 (43)	176 (0)	60 (10)	27 (10)	14 (2)	37 (10)	116 (11)
6-18	594 (146)	211 (10)	97 (28)	86 (37)	44 (20)	70 (23)	86 (28)
19-44	362 (162)	85 (11)	88 (39)	82 (53)	30 (14)	32 (20)	45 (25)
45-64	970 (539)	191 (41)	303 (185)	240 (159)	92 (51)	57 (37)	87 (66)
65+	2,499 (1,583)	136 (43)	809 (521)	900 (597)	271 (176)	161 (86)	222 (160)

* Figures in parentheses denote number of people who bought hearing aids within each category.